

Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request that the FDA retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. In its initial petition regarding the issue of labeling, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. This material fact remains and so should its labeling. Consumer acceptability, storage quality and nutrients are affected by irradiation. Some irradiated foods have different spoilage characteristics and different texture than untreated foods. Most fruits and vegetables ~~and~~ ¹¹⁵⁸ have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer. Processing by irradiation causes chemical changes and irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have not been tested. Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers should have a right to know if this process has been used on their food. As to the kind of label used, it should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer on the front of the package. Please don't permit the FDA's labeling requirement to expire. Thank you for your consideration.

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